Information and educational technology news for UC Davis

IME

A Nature Poet Enters the Digital World Gary Snyder's Poems and Feathers Archived Online

He wrote poetry. He learned Japanese and Chinese. He practiced Buddhism. He helped spark the West Coast Beat Movement in San Francisco in the 1950s. He won a Pulitzer Prize. He taught at UC Davis. He co-founded the Nature and Culture program on campus. Now he's going online.

Beginning in November, the California Digital Library's Online Archive of California (OAC), located at http: //www.oac.cdlib.org/, will host an online index of the papers of environmentalist poet and former UC Davis faculty member Gary Snyder.

Due to copyright concerns, copies of items from the Gary Snyder Papers will not be placed on the Internet at this time. Instead, researchers may log on to view a detailed description of every item contained within the Gary Snyder Collection at UC Davis. After perusing the index online, scholars can then request to view items in UC Davis Special Collections in Shields Library.

An Ecclectic Collection

Currently, one-third of the Snyder Papers consists of correspondence, some of it from literary greats such as Allen Ginsberg and Philip Whalen, but it also includes many unique artifacts such as audio and video recordings of poetry readings, t-shirts, buttons, flyers, art, and even a package of "Gary Snyder Pine Nuts." Perhaps the most unusual item in the collection is a flattened cardboard toilet paper roll stamped and mailed to Snyder around 1970 with a written message from a friend.

Snyder began depositing manuscripts, letters, and other materials in Special Collections in 1975. He continued adding to the massive collection during his 1986-2002 tenure as English department faculty, and persists to the present day.

Two full-time archivists, Melissa Tyler and Sara Gunasekara, spent a year sorting through the 260 linear feet of material, dividing the Papers into 11 categories such as "works," "correspondence," "photographs," and "memorabilia." During the sorting process, Snyder made himself available to answer questions regarding his work, such as the meaning of a drawing and the identity of firstname-only correspondents, as well as clearing up questions regarding his works written in Asian languages.

How Libraries Go Online

Catapulting the contents of the neat, gray, acid-free archival boxes from Shields Library Special Collections to the World Wide Web is no small feat. Once libraries have the time, money and staff to go online, there is a rigorous and labor-intensive process ahead of them. The project would not have been possible without the \$86,800 grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Electronic Resource Librarian Jared Campbell and Programmer Jim Sylva developed templates at UC Davis that allowed archivists and student employees to enter data concerning the Snyder collection into the computer. The system went through the templates each night and transformed the information into Expanded Archival Description (EAD) format. Sylva and Campbell also dealt with small technical issues that cropped up, such as ensuring that the program normalized dates according to standard.

Developed at UC Berkeley in the early 1990's and publicly released in 1997, EAD standards provided the structure that allows multiple institutions to contribute data into one Web site. Researchers can tap into a finding aid on the site that enables them to search across collections, a major step up from yesterday's typewritten paper indexes.

"Previously, each University had its own home-grown version of digital description," says University Archivist John Skarstad. "EAD standardized the methods."

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Entertainment Industries vs. Online File Swappers UC Campuses Take Position in the Ongoing Battle

A national file-sharing frenzy has kept its stronghold on college campuses long after the recording industry forced the peer-to-peer superpower Napster to shut down. Other P2P programs like KaZaA and Morpheus have since emerged, proving to be practically invincible as far as liability is concerned. With the software programs' roundabout operations - in which their own users act as the servers through which files are transferred — they have been deemed legally irreproachable for their customers' misdoings.

Thus the media industries' uphill battle to roadblock the illegal trading of copyrighted music, movies and games is far from over.

The Industry Takes Action

In the past, commercial Internet Service Providers and universities have been the target of the anti-piracy campaign, but now the entertainment industries, such as the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), are directing their fight against the file-swappers themselves. Last spring, several east coast college students involved in large-scale file sharing operations were forced to pay hefty settlements to the RIAA, slapping on another \$12,000 to \$17,000 to their parents' bill of college expenses.

More recently, the RIAA filed 261 lawsuits on September 8 against people who were found sharing copyrighted music. The RIAA found its defendants by using simple search techniques that allow anyone using major file sharing services to see who else is online, making music available to others. In addition to the lawsuits, the RIAA has issued subpoenas for over a thousand names of file sharers detected on music-swapping sites, according to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (http://www.eff.org/).

"The media industries are opening up their gunfight very broadly," says Robert Ono, UC Davis IT Security Coordinator.

How the UC is Responding

Closer to home, the RIAA recently issued subpoenas to UCLA and UC Berkeley in pursuit of copyright infringers' identities. While in both cases the copyright infringing material was traced to hacked general use computers, the day is coming in which copyright violators on our campus and elsewhere will be identified and prosecuted, says Ono.

IT Policy Analyst Randy Moory says that while Davis campus officials haven't yet had to release any student names to the RIAA or the Motion Picture Association, they are carefully considering how they would respond to a request for violators' names from one of these organizations. The UC Office of the President has already devised a legal plan just in case this occurs, according to Jan Carmikle, an attorney for the UC Davis Business Contracts office.

"If we are told we have to give up a person's name, we will," says Carmikle.

Heavy Abusers More Susceptible to Incrimination

In an article published last month by the Associated Press, the president of RIAA, Cary Sherman, insisted that the organization does not intend to file suit against any minor copyright abusers and is instead going after those who download a "substantial amount" of copyrighted music (although that definition wasn't made clear).

As for the offenders who have yet to be penalized, the RIAA recently launched its Clean Slate program, which it claims offers amnesty for file sharers who turn themselves in before their names are requested for subpoena. Under the Clean Slate program, the people seeking amnesty must destroy files that they have downloaded and sign a notarized form pledging that they will never trade copyrighted works again. In response to the Clean Slate program,



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Security Updates

Protect Yourself From Identity Thieves New Web Site Provides Information and Practical Tips

Anyone with a computer can hack into your life and snatch your identity. With the right combination of information, such as a name, account number, or Social Security number, identity thieves can apply for credit cards, open checking accounts, and commit other crimes using our names. And the victims of these thieves are piling up fast. In 2002 alone, 10 million people reported being victim to identity theft, according to statistics from the US Federal Trade Commission (http://www.ftc.gov/os/2003/09/synovatereport.pdf).

Our home computers, academia, and most places where we do business have computer databases containing pieces of our personal information. These databases may be hacked into and our information stolen without our being aware of it for months or even years.

Victims Must be Notified

In an attempt to curb this growing crime, California passed a new law this summer (California Civil Code Section 1798) that forces organizations, including institutions of higher education, to notify California state residents when a security breach results in the release of personal information. Potential victims of identity theft must be made aware that their personal information may have been obtained by others, so they can take action to prevent or minimize the effects.

Campus Advises Agressive Action

At UC Davis, Provost and Vice Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw advised campus units to take "aggressive action" to identify systems housing personal information, then either protect or remove the information, according to her "Network and Desktop Security: Protection of Personal Information" directive (http://directives.ucdavis.edu/2003/03-097.cfm) released on August 26, 2003.



New Web Site Offers Help

The campus developed a new Identity Theft Prevention Web site (http:// security.ucdavis.edu/id_theft.cfm) that provides information about the campus notification plan and steps that individuals can take in the event that they become victims of identity theft. The site includes an introduction to identity theft, tips on how to prevent it in the workplace and home, and instructions on what to do if you receive a notification letter or suspect that your identity has been stolen. The site also provides links to state and federal resources available to aid in identity theft prevention, incident reporting, and recovery.

Other Resources

With the help of Information Technology Security Coordinator Robert Ono, the campus has developed a notification plan that addresses the process that UC Davis will follow when assessing security breaches and notifying all appropriate individuals (http://security.ucdavis.edu/id_theft.cfm). The campus Misuse Committee plays a major role in examining each incident and determining when personal notification is required.

Vice Provost John Bruno identified specific measures that campus can take to help prevent identity theft. His directive, "Preventing Unauthorized Access to Personal Information" (http://directives.ucdavis.edu/2003/03-091.cfm) issued on July 30, 2003, provides links to other information about identity theft prevention and recovery. ∞

UC Davis Greets Returning Students and Faculty with System Patches Unpatched Computers Lose Access to Campus Network

It was an active summer for computer viruses and worms. An unprecedented wave of computer virus attacks on Windows XP, 2000, and NT has debilitated scores of businesses, colleges, and government offices across the nation. The good news is that most of these dangers can be avoided by patching your operating system. The bad news is that many people don't know they need to get these patches. And one infected computer on the UC Davis network can translate into many more infected computers.

Anticipating the influx of students, faculty and staff arriving on campus this week to log on to the network, IT security staff have determined a direct way to inform people that their systems are unpatched or vulnerable in any way: deny them access to the campus Web applications such as MyUCDavis.

Unsafe computers will regain access as soon as they patch their



IT Express Prepares Dorms for Computer Viruses Employees from IT Express, the campus computing help desk, recently met with student employees of the Learning Resource Center (LRC) who staff the dorm computer labs. The purpose of the special training day was to prepare the LRC for the computer security issues they'll confront when 4,348 freshmen move into the dorms. "One in four freshmen is likely to have an infected system," explained IT Express consultant Dan Rackerby (pictured above).

systems. And a number of measures have been taken to help them with the whole process. Read on:

How to Know if You Need a Patch

Between September 19 and September 30, 2003 all computers attempting to access secure campus Web-based applications (i.e., prompted to supply username and password) will be automatically scanned for vulnerabilities and infections. At this time, systems will be scanned for the Windows remote procedure call (RPC) vulnerabilities, which may allow attackers to access files or services hosted on a system, gain control of programs and/or systems, and perpetuate attacks. Computers found to be vulnerable or infected will be denied access until the user patches his or her system.

Additionally, the campus network will be scanned daily for vulnerabilities from September 20 through September 25 in order to identify infected systems already connected to the campus network. Administrators or owners of systems found to be vulnerable will be contacted and required to update their systems before reconnecting to the network. To further protect computer owners and the campus network, access from off-campus locations to some Microsoft functions, such as Windows domain logins, file sharing, Exchange email and scheduling services will be restricted.

Help for Users Needing Patches

As soon as a computer is denied access, the network will automatically refer the user

to a Web page that provides a description of the vulnerability or infection as well as detailed instructions and options for updating his or her system. The Web site will also present direct links to patches for affected Windows systems and contact information to get help installing the patch.

To further facilitate infection prevention and recovery, the campus is offering a free CD that contains the necessary Windows operating system patches and virus removal utilities. The CD will be available at various locations around campus, including the UC Davis Bookstore Computer Shop, MU Information Desk, the Arbor, and IT Express. Faculty and staff should contact their department Technical Support Coordinators (TSC) for further assistance.

For additional information, see the Emergency Directive for Computer Vulnerabilities (http://directives.ucdavis.edu/2003/03-101.cfm). Questions about the above measures should be directed to security@ucdavis.edu. ∞

Still Swamped with Spam?

Since UC Davis began filtering campus email for spam in Spring 2003, countless users have experienced relief from the barrage of junk email in their inboxes. Read on to discover how to set up spam filtering (if you haven't already), how to filter spam from your electronic mailing list, and upcoming new spam filtering features.

Spam Filtering Options

A spam-tagging program tags certain words as spam and allows your email program to filter out messages containing those words. Unfortunately, filtering is not perfect and the process may fail to identify spam as such (otherwise known as a 'false negative') or may misidentify desired messages as spam (a 'false positive').

Spam Filtering for Email List Owners

Spam filtering options are now available for email list owners. To enable spam filtering on your existing electronic mailing list, visit http://listproc.ucdavis.edu/listproc, the UC Davis listproc management page. Select 'Manage a mailing list,' then follow the



Faculty Exchange Ideas and Projects at 10th Annual Technology Institute

Some professors get teaching ideas from Mars. Literally. Paul Singh, UC Davis Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, was impressed when NASA scientists controlled robots on Mars from thier labs on Earth during the 1996 space shuttle mission. He wondered, "If we can operate robots on Mars from Earth, why can't we use the same technology at our university?"

Singh, a recent presenter at the Summer Institute on Technology in Teaching (SITT), faced increasing class sizes and decreased interaction with students. In response, he developed a system that enabled students to operate a piece of lab equipment from a remote location. Students log on to their computers at home and are able to switch on a piece of lab equipment (pictured, right) via the Internet, watch the experiment, and have the data emailed back to them. Students then switch off the instrument and the first part of the lab is complete — without students moving from their computer monitors.

Innovative technological teaching ideas such as Singh's occur daily in offices, labs, and departments across the UC Davis campus. But it's only once a year that instructors gather to share their accomplishments and instruct fellow faculty at SITT, sponsored by the Teaching Resources Center (TRC). Now in its 10th year, SITT hosted more than 60 teaching assistants, lecturers, faculty, and staff from July 21 to July 25, offering morning presentations and afternoon hands-on labs.

"This campus is fortunate to have leaders among faculty and staff in teaching with technology," said Vice Provost for Information and Educational Technology John Bruno in a lunchtime talk at SITT.

This year's presentations included several reports on the development of online and hybrid courses at UC Davis. Professors passed on information gleaned from practical research in this budding field and shared their challenges and successes.

In the labs, Photoshop and intermediate and advanced PowerPoint were popular with many instructors who have mastered basic techniques and are ready to step up to the next level. Several labs were taught by faculty, including basic PowerPoint and labs for MyUCDavis, the campus Web portal that offers course management tools for instructors.

In addition to nuts and bolts technology information, the week offered valuable social interactions. "Networking among faculty is an important part of SITT," said TRC Director Ellen Sutter. To facilitate an active exchange of ideas, the week included informal discussion sections regarding student computer literacy, copyright laws, and the future of technology in education. Faculty members from diverse departments shared their differing perspectives, discussed problems and brainstormed ideas for the future.

SITT began in 1994 when five devoted individuals, in cooperation with the Teaching Resources Center, began a week-long seminar with the idea that faculty members would teach their peers about how to use technology to enhance learning in the classroom. Since



Mission to Mars Hits Home at SITT

SITT participant and Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Paul Singh and a TA handle the food-drying equipment created for his students to use as a pre-experiment exercise. The system of tubes and wires is connected to a small Internet camera that allows students to operate the controls on the custombuilt system from their own computers at home. "Students run experiments from home so that when they show up for class, they have already become engaged in the lesson," Singh says. Singh was inspired to create the equipment after watching NASA scientist on Earth control robots located on Mars.

that time, participants have found that a mixture of educational technology and traditional teaching techniques is the most effective.

"Use technology to its maximum advantage, but don't overuse it," advised one of the SITT founders Frank Samaniego in a lunchtime address. "Technology is best when it does something you can't do any other way or [when it] does it better."

For more information about this year's SITT, visit the Teaching Resources Center's Web site at http://trc.ucdavis.edu/trc/sitt/default.htm. To find information about free technology training on campus, visit the TRC or the Arbor site at http://arbor.ucdavis.edu/. ∞

New Addition of Internet Tools CD Available

Whether you've just purchased a new computer or are upgrading "old reliable," the UC Davis Internet Tools CD can help you get connected and stay connected. The 2003-2004



UC Davis Internet Tools CD, now in its eighth year, is available in campus bookstores. This CD, developed by Information and Educational Technology with assistance from the Technology Infrastructure Forum-Client Support Issues (TIF-CSI), is intended to help faculty, staff and students quickly and easily configure their Internet connection. The CD also provides:

Tool Type	Windows 98/Me/ 2000/XP	Mac OS 8.6-9.2	Mac OS X
Anti-Virus	Norton AntiVirus 8.01	Norton AntiVirus 7.02	Norton AntiVirus 9.0
Web Browser	Mozilla 1.4	Mozilla 1.2.1	Mozilla 1.4
Decompression	Stuffit Expander 6.0	Stuffit Expander 7.0.3	Stuffit Expander 7.0.3
Email	Eudora 5.2.1	Eudora 5.2.1	Eudora 5.2.1

Pick up your copy of the 2003-2004 UC Davis Internet Tools CD at the UC Davis Bookstore Computer Shop, the Silo Bookstore, or the Health Sciences Bookstore for less than \$5.00. For more info on the CD visit http://online.ucdavis.edu/.

Snyder Archive continued from p. 1

The Gary Snyder Papers will be one of the most detailed finding aids on the Online Archive of California (OAC), which is the online library archive for the nine UC campuses and other universities and museums throughout California.

"Now by searching the OAC, a researcher could track correspondence from Beat Poet Allen Ginsberg to Gary Snyder and vice-versa and find all of it," says Programmer Jim Sylva. "It's pretty powerful. The researcher could be working from Timbuktu."

Daryl Morrison, Project Director and Head of Special Collections, says the Snyder Papers will be important to biographers, faculty, students, and Snyder enthusiasts who want to understand Snyder's impact as a writer and environmental activist.

Library Offers Other Online Archives

Other electronic collections at Shields Library include texts from British Women Romantic Poets, 1789-1832, available at http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/English/BWRP/ and photographs from the Eastman's Originals Collection, available at http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/specol/ html/newstuff.html. Special Collections is also working on a UC-wide California Cultures project hosted by the OAC that will include both images and text. ∞

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Planning to Buy a New Computer?

If you're planning to buy a computer and aren't sure where to begin or what you will need, the Computer Ownership Web site can help. Faculty, staff and students at UC Davis can visit http://computerownership.ucdavis.edu for recommendations and information about choosing a system. This Web site includes the 2003-2004 Recommended Specifications for Office Computer Systems table (http://computerownership.ucdavis.edu/staff/choosing.html), which details minimum hardware requirements for desktop or laptop systems.

File Sharing continued from p.1

a lawsuit has already been filed by a private citizen, who is claiming the program does not actually provide legal amnesty to file swappers, since artists and RIAA members (individual record labels) can still file suit against individuals who signed up for the RIAA amnesty. Other groups, such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation, have publicly criticized the Clean Slate program, claiming it deceives users, often young people, into admitting wrongdoing while making them even more susceptible to lawsuits.

Ono recommends that people "do a little research" before turning themselves in. "Find out the pros and cons of the Clean Slate program so you can make an informed decision," he urges.

UC Davis Warns and Punishes its Own File Swappers

According to Ono, the industry's focus on heavy abusers, rather than minor offenders, may explain the significant decline in file sharing violations reported on campus, from 96 in April, 30 in May, and down to a mere 10 in June. However, Carmickle says UC Davis's aggressive communication campaign is also helping drive down the stats. Last spring, for example, the Provost issued a campuswide letter warning the community about the dangers and consequences of copyright infringement. See http://provost.ucdavis.edu/ for a copy of the letter. An updated version of this letter will be re-issued in late September.

The UC Davis policy for handling campus copyright violations remains firm, with disciplinary action taken against every known offender. Student Judicial Affairs has broadened the scope of their copyright infringement investigations to include both students and staff. Though many are opposed to this policy, the University maintains its obligation to uphold the law. "As a research university, we create tons of copyrighted material by the minute," says Carmickle. "It's not fair for us to scream that we want people to protect our copyrights if we don't do the same for others."

File Sharing Alternatives for the Future

As many public interest groups advocate decriminalizing file sharing, universities brainstorm alternative ways to satisfy the craving for cheap, downloadable media. One college is considering implementing a service similar to that of Apple's iTunes, in which users pay a license fee for the legal freedom to download copyrighted music. Other universities are also looking into it, and the option could eventually enter the UC Davis arena too, according to Randy Moory, IET Policy Analyst.

The success of this alternative, however, would depend on its price and restrictions. As is the case with commercial pay-to-play services, access to media wouldn't be as plentiful as that of the free, "use-at-your-own-risk" P2P services. Ono says the commercial services must offer a broad range of music, minimize the restrictions on moving music between computer and MP3 devices, and be reasonably priced to be an attractive alternative for students used to the luxury of a nearly-unlimited catalog of downloadable entertainment. Says Ono, "If you can replicate at minimal cost what people can get for free, then I think it's possible."

Many college students and staff continue to take advantage of unauthorized peer-topeer file swapping, whether because of their perceived immunity to the penalties, their ideological resistance to the media business, or simply because of the convenience and thrift of it all. But for those who have paid high prices for their actions — losing everything from Internet privileges to college savings — online piracy is a risky game not worth playing. For more information on copyright laws visit the UC-wide Copyright Resources Web site at http://copyright.lib.uci.edu/. ∞

Spam continued from p.2

instructions to the spam filtering option. If you are planning to create a new mailing list, you will be asked if you would like to enable spam filtering during the list set-up process.

Stronger Filtering Options Coming Soon

To enhance current spam filtering measures, the campus plans to implement both 'black' and 'white' lists. Black lists consist of known spammers; all email sent from a name or location on the black list will be stopped before it reaches your inbox. On the other hand, white lists consist of names of approved sources (e.g., campus officials) whose email will never be diverted from your inbox by the spam filtering program. Thus, the white lists prevent the program from misidentifying official campus messages as spam.

For more information about all of these options, visit the Computer and Network Security Web site at http://security.ucdavis.edu/spam.cfm. ∞